

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION
(BIRTH THROUGH GRADE 3)**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. A baccalaureate degree from a college or university having a teacher education program which addresses the competencies required for this certificate and is approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having an early childhood special education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B. Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D. Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score;
- E. Completion of professional requirements as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements; and
- F. Individuals who completed their teacher education program outside of the United States shall provide documentation of completion of course work in the following:
 - 1. English Composition, two (2) courses, each a minimum of two (2) semester hours;
 - 2. U.S. History, three (3) semester hours; and
 - 3. U.S. Government, three (3) semester hours.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS (Minimum requirement of fifty-seven (57) hours):

The lists following the major areas of professional requirements are to be regarded as areas of study and/or content and not necessarily as course titles.

- A. **Foundations of Teaching** (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):
 - 1. Philosophy of Education;
 - 2. *Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted); and
 - 3. Educational Psychology;
- B. **Child Development** (Minimum requirement of nine (9) semester hours):
 - 1. Human Development;
 - 2. *Child Development;
 - 3. Observing Young Children;
 - 4. *Infancy; and
 - 5. Middle Childhood;
- C. **Teaching the Young Child** (Minimum requirement of twenty-one (21) semester hours):
 - 1. *Early Childhood Principles;
 - 2. Integrated Curriculum which addresses the following areas:
 - a) **Language Arts (including reading, writing, speaking, and listening);
 - b) Health;
 - c) Nutrition;
 - d) Music;
 - e) Movement;
 - f) *Math;
 - g) Science;
 - h) Social Studies;
 - i) Safety;
 - j) Art; and

**Denotes minimum of two (2) semester hours required.*

***Denotes minimum of eight (8) semester hours required.*

- k) Drama;
- 3. Learning Environment;
- 4. Diverse Learners;
- 5. Professionalism in Early Childhood Education;
- 6. *Assessing Young Children; and
- 7. Play;

D. Home-School-Community Relations (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

- 1. Parents as Teachers;
- 2. Family Involvement; and
- 3. Linking Families with Community Resources;

E. Teaching Young Children with Disabilities (Minimum requirement of fifteen (15) semester hours):

- 1. *Special Education Process;
- 2. Current Trends in Early Childhood Special Education;
- 3. Assessment for Intervention;
- 4. Communication Disorders;
- 5. *Environmental and Personal Strategies for Self Management;
- 6. *Implementation and Evaluation of Interventions;
- 7. Health, Nutrition, and Safety of Young Children; and
- 8. Collaborative Consultation; and

F. Pre-Student Teaching (Minimum requirement of ninety (90) contact hours. A minimum of fifteen (15) contact hours equals one (1) semester hour):

Pre-student teaching must include a minimum of thirty (30) contact hours in each of the three (3) different age levels (infant/toddler, pre-K/Kindergarten, and primary K-3). This pre-student teaching may be included as part of courses identified in areas B-E above or be offered as a separate course(s). The selection of pre-student teaching experiences should be individualized to ensure the student's exposure to families from diverse backgrounds and children with a variety of disabling conditions in a variety of settings, including environments where children with disabilities are learning with their peers without disabilities.

III. STUDENT TEACHING (Minimum requirement of twelve (12) semester hours):

The individual participates and applies the competencies in a variety of supervised student teaching experiences with children with disabilities and their families.

Student Teaching will require a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours spent with two (2) different age levels (infant/toddler, pre-K/Kindergarten, and primary K-3). Each of the two (2) student teaching experiences requires a minimum of five (5) semester hours.

*Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (ECSE) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
TEACHERS WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** A Missouri teaching certificate in early childhood; and
- B.** The minimum of three (3) semester hours of field experiences is required and may be integrated into the following areas of study and individualized to ensure the students exposure to a variety of disabling conditions and a variety of settings. The experiences should be distributed across the age span of birth through eight (8).

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Teaching Young Children with Disabilities** (Minimum requirement of fifteen (15) semester hours):
 - 1. *Special Education Process;
 - 2. Current Trends in Early Childhood Special Education;
 - 3. Assessment for Intervention;
 - 4. Communication Disorders;
 - 5. *Environmental and Personal Strategies for Self Management;
 - 6. *Implementing and Evaluating Interventions;
 - 7. Health, Nutrition, and Safety of Young Children; and
 - 8. Collaborative Consultation.

**Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (ECSE) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
TEACHERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** A Missouri teaching certificate in special education; and
- B.** The equivalent of five (5) semester hours of field experiences is required and may be integrated into the following areas of study and individualized to ensure the students exposure to young children ages birth through eight (8) in a variety of settings.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A. Teaching the Young Child (Minimum requirement of fifteen (15) semester hours):

- 1. Integrated Curriculum - which addresses the following areas:
 - a. **Language Arts (including reading, writing, speaking, and listening);
 - b. Health;
 - c. Nutrition;
 - d. Music;
 - e. Movement;
 - f. *Math;
 - g. Science;
 - h. Social Studies;
 - i. Safety;
 - j. Art; and
 - k. Drama;
- 2. Learning Environment;
- 3. Diverse Learners;
- 4. Professionalism in Early Childhood Education;
- 5. *Assessing Young Children;
- 6. Play; and
- 7. *Early Childhood Principles;

B. Teaching Young Children with Disabilities (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

- 1. Special Education Process;
- 2. Current Trends in Early Childhood Special Education;
- 3. Assessment for Intervention;
- 4. Communication Disorders;
- 5. Environmental and Personal Strategies for Self Management;
- 6. *Implementing and Evaluating Interventions;
- 7. Health, Nutrition, and Safety of Young Children; and
- 8. *Collaborative Consultation; and

C. Child Development (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

- 1. Human Development;
- 2. *Infancy;
- 3. *Child Development;
- 4. Middle Childhood; and
- 5. Observing Young Children.

**Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

***Denotes minimum requirement of eight (8) semester hours.*

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (ECSE) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
TEACHERS WITH ELEMENTARY CERTIFICATION**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. A Missouri teaching certificate in elementary education; and
- B. The equivalent of three (3) semester hours of field experiences is required and may be integrated into the following areas of study and individualized to ensure the students exposure to young children ages birth through five (5) with and without disabilities.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A. Teaching the Young Child (Minimum requirement of fifteen (15) semester hours):

- 1. Integrated Curriculum which addresses the following areas:
 - a. **Language Arts (including reading, writing, speaking, and listening);
 - b. Health;
 - c. Nutrition;
 - d. Music;
 - e. Movement;
 - f. *Math;
 - g. Science;
 - h. Social Studies;
 - i. Safety;
 - j. Art; and
 - k. Drama;
- 2. Learning Environment;
- 3. Diverse Learners;
- 4. Professionalism in Early Childhood Education;
- 5. *Assessing Young Children;
- 6. Play; and
- 7. *Early Childhood Principles;

B. Teaching Young Children with Disabilities (Minimum requirement of fifteen (15) semester hours):

- 1. *Special Education Process;
- 2. Current Trends in Early Childhood Special Education;
- 3. Assessment for Intervention;
- 4. Communication Disorders;
- 5. *Environmental and Personal Strategies for Self Management;
- 6. *Implementation and Evaluation of Interventions;
- 7. Health, Nutrition, and Safety of Young Children; and
- 8. Collaborative Consultation;

C. Child Development (Minimum requirement of three (3) semester hours):

- 1. Human Development;
- 2. *Child Development;
- 3. Observing Young Children;
- 4. *Infancy; and
- 5. Middle Childhood;

D. Home-School-Community Relations (Minimum requirement of three (3) semester hours):

- 1. Parents as Teachers;
- 2. Family Involvement; and
- 3. Linking Families with Community Resources; and

**Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

***Denotes minimum requirement of eight (8) semester hours.*

E. Program Management (Minimum requirement of three (3) semester hours):

1. Program Organization and Communication;
2. Collaborative Consultation;
3. Health, Nutrition, and Safety of Young Children;
4. Guidance Strategies; and
5. Classroom Management.

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
FAMILY RESOURCE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
TEACHERS WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND/OR
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must hold a valid Missouri teaching certificate in early childhood and/or early childhood special education.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A. Adult/Family Education (Minimum requirement of eighteen (18) semester hours):

1. Adult Development;
2. Family Development;
3. Parenting;
4. Adult Education;
5. Family Advocacy; and
6. Evaluation of Adult Education or Assessment of Adult Education;

The equivalent of thirty (30) contact hours in each of three (3) of the five (5) family life stages, as described below, (may be integrated into the above):

1. Families without Children;
2. Families with Young Children;
3. Families with Teens;
4. Families with Launched Children; and
5. Families with Adult Children; and

B. Internship (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

The internship will include experiences with at least two (2) of the five (5) family life stages (see above).